



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Media Freedom in Hungary

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 20, 2011

The United States wishes to register its concern over the new media law in Hungary. As a close ally and friend, we call on Hungary to uphold media freedom at home and throughout the region given its participation in the OSCE and as current President of the European Union. The passage of the new media law has raised significant international concern about the future of freedom of expression in Hungary. We note the visit to Budapest earlier this week of OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic and the concerns she previously outlined regarding media pluralism and possible risks to the financial, political, and editorial independence of media outlets under this new law. The United States cares deeply about freedom of expression, including press freedom, as a right that is central to democracy.

We therefore urge Hungarian officials to consider the concerns raised about the law, including those cited by Ms. Mijatovic, and ensure that freedom of expression, including media freedom, is fully respected in Hungary – a country long recognized as a leader in the fight against totalitarianism.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.